

**CLINICAL ONCOLOGY.** Edited by John Horton, M.B., CH.B., and George J. Hill, II., M.D. (Pp xv + 819; illustrated. Price not stated.) Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. S. Saunders Company, 1977.

THIS is one of the best cancer textbooks available today. The 800 pages cover much of the pathology, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of malignant disease. The book is a multi-author work and many of the contributions are excellent. Inevitably, however, the presentation is uneven. Moreover, events have overtaken some of the chapters. For instance, the discussion on breast cancer contains scant mention of adjunctive chemotherapy, perhaps the most controversial subject in cancer management today. Against this the chapters on tumor immunology and the remote effects of cancer on the host contain up-to-date and relevant information. Much of this will be of value to candidates taking postgraduate examinations. I was particularly impressed with several chapters by "enlightened" surgeons. For example, the section on skin cancer gives a balanced account of the alternative roles of surgery and radiotherapy in this common disease. This is unusual in an American textbook where the role of surgery is sometimes overemphasised.

A special feature of the book is chapter 9, entitled "General Factors in Cancer Management". This gives a useful account of the associated problems of pain, hypercalcaemia and fungation in terminal illness. Surprisingly, most cancer textbooks today do not discuss these problems and their inclusion in this book make it a valuable contribution to medical literature.

*W.S.L.*

**EXAMINATION HAEMATOLOGY.** By A. H. Goldstone. (Pp. vi + 206; illustrated. £4.95). London, Philadelphia and Toronto: Saunders, 1977.

THIS book consists mainly of a series of 15 haematological reviews originally published in the magazine "Hospital Update". These reviews, which cover a wide variety of topics, are very well written and give a balanced view of modern thinking in this particular field. There are also smaller sections on multiple choice questions, the answers to which include a concise explanation for the choice; a section on the interpretation of haematological data and haematological photographs and, finally, a number of case histories to illustrate various aspects of defects in blood coagulation.

This relatively cheap paperback book is in no way comprehensive and thus perhaps cannot be properly regarded as a textbook, but very few aspects of clinical haematology are omitted, although less emphasis is given to the laboratory aspects.

What distinguishes this book is the quality of writing, the author's style being very readable and lucid. For anyone preparing for higher examinations in pathology or general medicine this book could be highly recommended and it would also give interest and pleasure to those not necessarily preparing for examinations but wishing to be up to date in this field.

*J.M.B.*

**GONORRHOEA.** By R. S. Morton, M.B.E., F.R.C.P. (Ed.) (Pp ix + 292; illustrated. £12). London: Saunders, 1977.

THIS is an excellent book and it will be of great help to anyone practising gynaecology or venerology. It reviews the international literature in greater depth and detail than is normally published in a general textbook. The section on treatment is particularly valuable in view of the recent reports of penicillinase producing gonorrhoea. This requires every clinician to critically examine his own methods of treatment.

Dr. Morton's views on control point the way for increased co-operation between doctors in the public field and practising clinicians. He stresses the importance of public education and the education of young people in groups of the dangers of infection and where advice and treatment may be obtained if the need arises.

*T.H.*